



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AGENTS ARREST EL PASO BAIL BONDSMAN FOR OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that federal authorities arrested 53-year-old David Delgado, owner and operator of Casa Bail Bonds, earlier today on charges stemming from the filing of a falsified death report on a Mexican national facing a federal drug charge in an attempt to get the charge dismissed.

On October 18, 2004, Delgado posted a \$25,000 corporate security bond for Anel Viridiana Salas-Pimental. Salas-Pimental was arrested by Immigration officials at the Paso del Norte Port of Entry on October 12, 2004, after attempting to smuggle over 12 kilograms of marijuana into the United States.

The indictment alleges that on January 3, 2005, Delgado impeded an official proceeding by instructing Salas-Pimental to not attend a scheduled hearing for the next day. Also, in April 2005, Delgado intentionally misled a U.S. Pretrial Services officer investigating the whereabouts of Salas-Pimental. Delgado told the officer that when he last visited with Salas-Pimental in February 2005, she was ill, had contracted Hepatitis B and was in a hospital in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Furthermore, Delgado lied to FBI agents when he claimed that he attempted to obtain a clearance for Salas-Pimental to enter the country for a court appearance on January 4, 2005, but was unsuccessful because Customs officials denied her entry because she suffered from Hepatitis B, a communicable disease. The indictment also alleges that Delgado provided the Court with fraudulent documentation of Salas-Pimental's purported medical condition, treatment and death to explain her failure to appear in Court.

In all, Delgado is charged with of four counts of making false statements, plus one count of obstructing justice and two counts of improper influence in an official proceeding. Upon conviction, Delgado faces up to five years in federal prison per count. Delgado is scheduled to have his Initial Appearance tomorrow at 2:00pm before United States Magistrate Judge Richard P. Mesa.

This case is the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorneys William F. Lewis, Jr., and Russell Leachman are prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

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